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Mistrial declared in John Edwards



GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AFP) - The judge declared a mistrial Thursday in the John Edwards trial after jurors failed to reach a verdict on five out of six charges against the fallen US political star.

Edwards was found not guilty of one count of using campaign donations to hide his pregnant mistress as he sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008. A mistrial was declared on the five remaining counts.

The disgraced politician saw his career collapse after he fathered a child with videographer Rielle Hunter in 2007 and then lied about their affair to his cancer-stricken wife, Elizabeth, and the public.

The 58-year-old former North Carolina senator had

faced up to 30 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines if convicted of intentionally using nearly \$1 million from two wealthy donors to hide his affair.

The mistrial ruling capped a confusing and dramatic day at the court in Greensboro, North Carolina as jurors struggled to convince Judge Catherine Eagles that they were unable to reach a verdict on most of the charges.

The judge appeared surprised when the foreman originally announced that a verdict had only been reached on one count, concerning the alleged illegal use of a 2008 donation from banking heiress Rachel "Bunny" Mellon, now 101.

Edwards faced another count of misusing a donation from Mellon in 2007 as well as two similar counts of misusing money given by wealthy Texas lawyer Fred Baron, who died in 2008.

Defense attorneys say Edwards did not ask for the money that was used to hide the affair, and that the contributions were unrelated to the campaign.

Divi Management welcomes designer of Aqua di Lara and film crew at Fusion Lounge



Divi Properties General Manager Alex Nieuwmeyer with Reyhan Sofraci and Model Elise Tremblay. (see story on pg 4)

Syria faces 'catastrophic civil war': UN chief

(AFP)-- UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned on Thursday that Syria risks a "catastrophic civil war" following the Houla massacre, as Washington slammed Moscow over its Syria policies.

Damascus regretted Ban's warning and denied any responsibility in last week's slaughter of 108 people, blaming "armed gangs" for the killings that have triggered international outrage.

And as Syrian rebels threatened to escalate their operations if President Bashar al-Assad's regime does not meet a 0900 GMT Friday ultimatum to observe a UN-backed ceasefire, activists called for nationwide protests.

The rallies to be held today will honour the 49 children killed in Houla, activists said on the Syrian Revolution 2011 Facebook page, describing

them as "flares of victory."

State television also called for prayers "in all of Syria's mosques" today for the Houla dead and for "all the country's martyrs."

Speaking in Istanbul, the UN chief said Damascus must implement the six-point

peace blueprint brokered by UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan, which has been violated daily since April 12.

"I demand that the government of Syria act on its commitment to the Annan peace plan," Ban said.



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The 2012 Hurricane Season is upon us... as of today!

Aruba is advised that from June 1st to November 30th is our official Hurricane Season for this year. Hence, we are urged to pay close attention to all information coming from the Meteorological Department of Aruba (DMA).

The DMS is the official department of the government of Aruba to issue warning bulletins concerning meteorological and geophysical activities, tropical cyclones and tsunamis.

Our meteorological experts have indicated that the 2012 Hurricane Season for the Atlantic region is normal compared to the long period of 1981 to 2010. In the long period of 1981 to 2010 there was an average of 12 tropical storms, with 6 turning into hurricanes.

This year they anticipate between 9 to 15 tropical storms with 4 to 8 becoming hurricanes. This forecast is based on the atmospheric and oceanographic conditions in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

For example, in the Pacific Ocean they anticipate a possible El Niño (a warmer than usual ocean), which could help to limit the force of and amount of tropical cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean.

Our experts have noted that there is a difference in the wind level and temperature in the Atlantic Ocean. From the East the situation is not favorable with respect to the force of tropical cyclones.

On the other hand, they expect generally favorable conditions to continue in certain parts of the Atlantic region which developed since 1995.

All these conditions combined give an indication that our 2012 Hurricane Season will be more or less normal. The two tropical cyclones which have already been formed close to the US do not indicate anything for the season, this is normal. It is normal that sometimes a tropical cyclone may be formed before the month of June and sometimes this happens after November.

As of June 1st the DMA will, on their website, use a color bar for special bulletins. Green, for example, will mean that there is no danger pending. Light Orange (be

alert) and will signal the need to be cautious and follow DMA information. Orange (be watchful), will, mean that bad weather may be approaching Aruba in 48 hours, hence follow DMA information. Red (warning) means that bad weather may be approaching within 36 hours. The color red also indicates the possibility for a tsunami. Again, we must be careful and follow DMA information.

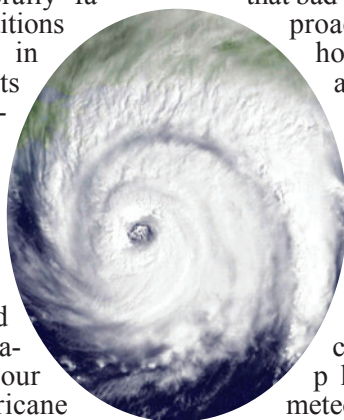
Earlier this year, DMA received new and sophisticated meteorological and seismicological equipment to be able to provide more accurate weather conditions monitoring and reporting.

Soon DMA will have their own 'Apple Application' which will enable users to follow DMA data on an iPhone or iPad.

DMA also intends to introduce a NOAA weather radio transmission system from the USA.

Those who have a maritime radio or scanner can receive data from DMA even when our telecommunication companies on the island are not operational.

DMA is also working together with the different NGO's on Aruba so that their bulletins can reach our communities faster and as accurately as possible. We must never forget that Aruba lies on the Southern side of the Hurricane belt, which means that we must always be prepared; even when conditions appear normal or less than normal. For more information, consult the DMA website at: <http://www.meteo.aw>.



Aruba's Minister Hooyboer among 1000 female leaders at the 2012 "Global Summit of Women"

From the 31st of May to the 2nd of June this year, the annual "Global Summit of Women" is scheduled to take place in Greece. And, Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, is expected to be one of the speakers at the occasion. This is the second time that the Minister of Social and Economic Affairs Hooyboer is participating as a speaker at this important event. There will be over 1000 women in leadership from all over the world at this summit.

The theme of this year's summit is "Women: The Motor for Economic Growth."

During the summit they will concentrate on sharing information and strategies which produce excellent results for the advancement of women in the economic sector and in doing so, ensure global prosperity.

Some of the topics to be discussed at this summit are:

Micro-Businesses, Career Development, Best Practices in the area of Flexible Employment, Strategies for Economic Development, and Sponsorship vs Mentorship.

Some of the topics mentioned are of keen interest to Aruba's Minister of Social and Economic Affairs as these were recently discussed at the Women's Conference held here.

Among the various female speakers will be, women leaders from large companies, and government leaders. The Vice President of the European Union, Rodi Kratsa will be in attendance, along with the President of Boeing of Central and Occidental Europe, Henryka Bochniarz; CEO of Siemens, Rosa Garcia; President of InforPres, Nuris Vilano, and Leader of the Department of Ethics and Management of Deloitte, Carol Lambert.

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Dirty Dutch on Aruba with Chuckie for the Aruba International Film Festival



On Sunday June 24 world famous dj Chuckie will be in Aruba for a performance and to celebrate his birthday.

Dirty Dutch is the brain-child of Chuckie who came up with the concept several years ago.

It started out with organizing dance events with Dutch guest dj's in the line up in the Netherlands.

The Dirty Dutch concept has since grown to be a successful international tour.



This will be the first time an official Dirty Dutch event will take place in Aruba.

Chuckie has recently moved to Aruba with his family.

He has visited the island several times before and fell in love with it's people, beaches and relaxed life style. When he's not on tour, Aruba is the place Chuckie calls home.

The Dirty Dutch tour has only visited big cities so far, but for Aruba an exception has been made.

Dirty Dutch is part of the

Aruba International Film Festival.

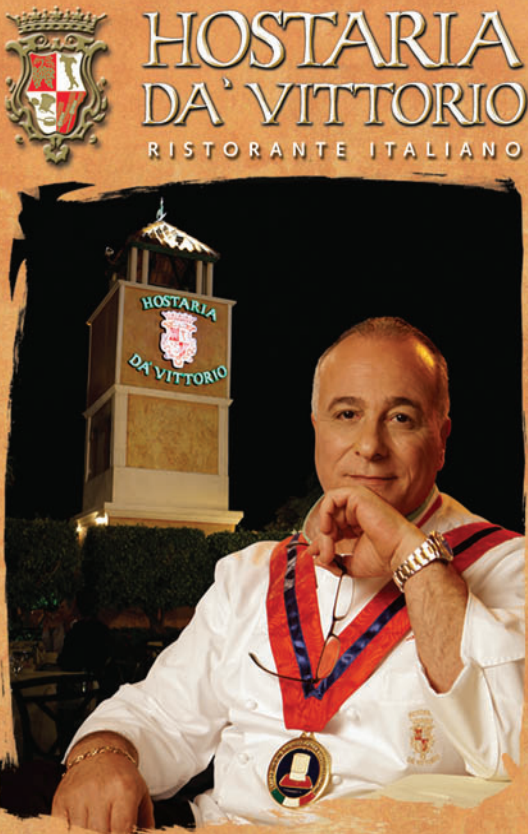
Friday June 22nd Juanes
Saturday June 23rd
Marc Anthony

Sunday June 24th Dirty Dutch with Chuckie and friends.

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Divi Management welcomes designer of Aqua di Lara and film crew at Fusion Lounge



In November of 2011 the inaugural ARUBA IN STYLE Fashion week featured an elegant swimwear runway featuring the popular high fashion bathing suits of Canadian designer Reyhan Sofraci and her Aqua di Lara line.

Reyhan so fell in love with Aruba during the event she has returned with a photographer and video crew to put to-

gether the media package promoting her 2013 designs. "I find the Aruban landscape absolutely thrilling with its diversity and sharp contrasts," states Reyhan. "Also, I must say, the people are so delightful; they have made Aruba one of my favorite destinations now, and I have traveled all over the world."

Joining Reyhan is Elise Tremblay of Quebec, who is

modeling her Quiss-Quiss suits, a more moderately priced line for the teenage to early 20's set. For the most part they are shooting the catalog on Renaissance Island and around the resort, which is their host for the week.

A trendy party at the

spanking new Fusion Lounge and Wine Bar in the renovated Alhambra Shopping Mall and Casino gave the Canadian crew a glimpse of the sleek, stylish new setting by the low rise hotels for some chic restaurants and shops.

Divi Properties General Manager Alex Nieuwmeyer welcomed them personally, proudly showing of the elegant new lounge in which he had a personal hand in decorating. Lounge manager Jos was a busy and perfect host, as island fashionistas and media joined in the introduction to a charming place that Jos feels will "surely be THE place to be" within a few months.

The 2012 Aqua di Lara line will be introduced on the runway during Miami Fashion Week, and the catalog will be widely distributed throughout North American and Europe, in all fashionable circles, simultaneously showcasing the best of Aruba.

By Rosalie Klein

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Final test version of Windows 8 released

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Microsoft Thursday released the final test version of its next-generation Windows software crafted to power devices ranging from tablets to desktop computers.

"We're thrilled to be at this milestone with the Windows 8 Release Preview," said Windows and Windows Live division president Steven Sinofsky.

The nearly finished Windows 8 software was available

for download in 14 languages at preview.windows.com.

Availability of Windows 8 Release Preview marks the final phase of development before the operating system becomes available to makers of computers and other devices.

A "consumer preview" version of Windows 8 was downloaded more than a million times in the 24 hours after its release in February, according to Microsoft.



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Marriott Awards Top Director of Sales and Marketing for 2011 Antoinette Van Den Berg named Property Sales Leader of the Year in the Americas

Antoinette Van Den Berg, Director of Sales and Marketing for the Aruba Marriott Resort, was awarded the 'Sales Leader of the year for full service hotels in the Americas' for Marriott International in 2011 after Antoinette led her sales team to the highest sales and financial results in the history of the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino. There are over 500 full service hotels participating in the Americas region.

Providing excellent leadership, Van Den Berg and her team doubled group business and reached the highest market share growth in 2011. Van Den Berg also pitched her vision of an adults-only pool to Aruba Marriott ownership, leading to the creation of the



Aruba Marriott Dir. of Sales & Marketing Antoinette van den Berg

acclaimed H2Oasis pool and lounge area.

"We are very proud that

Antoinette received this award. No one deserves it more than she does. She has

taken our resort to new heights as the Director of Sales and Marketing. Her leadership and ability to facilitate communication between departments is invaluable," said Kevin Schwab, Vice President and General Manager of the Aruba Marriott Resort.

Born and raised in Aruba, Antoinette Van Den Berg left the island to receive a college education in Boston, MA, returning to reside and raise her family. She has been a valued associate of the Aruba Marriott Resort for seven years.

About Aruba Marriott Resort

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each

with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool, the new H2Oasis adults-only pool and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @ArubaMarriott.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Guantanamo: US denies abuse in 'Sesame Street' row

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Pentagon insisted Thursday that it has not abused prisoners at Guantanamo Bay after a documentary said US forces a decade ago blared music of children's show "Sesame Street" to break in inmates.

The United States has previously acknowledged playing music to influence behavior at the controversial camp, which was set up under former president George W. Bush for detainees captured in the "war of terror" against Al-Qaeda.

A documentary on Al-Jazeera gave further details, saying that prisoners in 2003 were strapped to chairs and played loud music through their headphones for hours or even days and that "Sesame Street" was among the selections.

Pentagon spokesman Captain John Kirby said he did not know the playlist at the prison camp but that previous investigations covering the time period had approved of the use of

music.

"Universally, these investigations have shown, and leadership has revealed, that music can be used as both an incentive and a disincentive. It depends on how you use it," Kirby told reporters.

Kirby said he did not know whether music was still played at the prison camp. But he said US forces "rigorously" followed a policy against mistreatment of prisoners.

"We do not torture. And we do not abuse our detainees at all," he said.

President Barack Obama on taking office in 2009 vowed to close the prison within a year, saying the indefinite detentions were an affront to US values and a recruiting bonanza for Al-Qaeda.

But Obama failed to meet the deadline as lawmakers blocked the transfer of de-

tainees to US soil and many countries balked at accepting former inmates even if cleared of wrongdoing.

"Sesame Street," which debuted on US public television in 1969, follows the antics of puppets in a socially diverse New York neighborhood and has been hailed as a way to teach children to respect one another's differences.

"Sesame Street" has since aired in more than 150 countries. The United States recently underwrote a version for Pakistan that aims to promote tolerance and girls' rights in a country that has seen frequent violence by Islamic militants.

Previous revelations of music at Guantanamo Bay have angered artists including Rage Against the Machine, whose songs were allegedly played despite the rap metal band's left-wing politics.

US House rejects bill barring gender-based abortions



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US House of Representatives rejected legislation Thursday put forward by pro-life Republicans that would have outlawed abortions based on the sex of a fetus.

Congressman Trent Franks, sponsor of the Prenatal Non-Discrimination Act, had said that the bill would "provide that no discrimination can be taken against an unborn child" in the form of an abortion based on its gender.

Such "sex selection" abortions had taken the lives of 200 million unborn girls around the world, he said, a few hours before the House voted on the proposal.

Had it been enacted into law, the bill would have set prison terms of up to five years, as well as fines, for anyone -- including doctors -- who incite or carry out an abortion based on sex selection.

Similar legislation has been adopted at the state level in Arizona, Illinois, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

The House voted 246-168 in favor of the bill, including 20 Democrats, but because it came to the floor under a suspension of the chamber's normal rules, the legislation needed a two-thirds majority to pass.

The failed bill was the latest episode in an ongoing struggle

by social conservatives in the United States against abortion, which the Supreme Court has ruled to be a private matter between a woman and her doctor.

"This is an important issue to the American people," John Boehner, the Republican speaker of the House, said in support of the legislation.

"This type of sex selection, most Americans find pretty repulsive. Our members feel strongly about it. That's why it's being brought to the floor," he told reporters shortly before the vote.

"We know it's a problem all over the world," added another congressman, Christopher Smith from New Jersey.

"We know it's a problem here (in the United States) and that's why we're trying to stop this violation of women rights."

In a statement to ABC News, the White House said the administration of President Barack Obama "opposes gender discrimination in all forms."

"But the end result of this legislation would be to subject doctors to criminal prosecution if they fail to determine the motivations behind a very personal and private decision," it said. "The government should not intrude in medical decisions or private family matters in this way."

REMEMBER

to



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up**



George W. Bush, the 43rd president of the United States and wife Laura Bush stands next to their unveiled official White House portrait on May 31 2012. The East Room ceremony was packed with former Bush staffers and also attended by the former President's father, George H.W. Bush, whose portrait hangs nearby. Before the unveiling Obama and first lady Michelle Obama joined the former first couple as well as President George H. W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, for lunch. After Obama's speech, Bush came to the stage, looked at the portraits of himself and his wife, turned to the crowd and winked. The Bushes' portraits were painted by John Howard Sanden of New York.



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International News

Suu Kyi takes centre stage on Thailand trip



BANGKOK (AFP) - Myanmar democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi will make her first major international engagement after more than two decades of isolation when she addresses world business leaders today in Bangkok.

The Nobel Peace laureate has stolen the show at a meeting of Asian leaders and top businessmen at the World Economic Forum on East Asia in the Thai capital, drawing crowds of well-wishers and photographers wherever she goes.

Suu Kyi's first trip abroad in 24 years comes after the opposition leader was elected to Myanmar's parliament in an April by-election, in dramatic reforms sweeping the country since direct army rule ended last year.

Having spent 15 of the past 22 years under house arrest, she has taken an increasingly global role as Myanmar sheds its pariah status, meeting top world dignitaries in Yangon and encouraging easing of Western economic sanctions.

Speaking to AFP late on Thursday, on just the second full day of her visit, the 66-year-old said she had enjoyed her trip beyond Myanmar's borders and lavished praise on

Thailand, which she called a "wonderful place".

"People are very warm here, just like they are in Burma... in fact, I find the people even look the same. It's quite striking," the veteran activist said as she patiently posed for photos with delegates during a dinner.

Analysts say that foreign travel will give Suu Kyi greater access to a global community eager to see her in per-

son and allow her to meet ordinary people as well as world leaders.

After today's speech she will field questions from global media and attend a forum session on Asian women.

Since arriving in neighbouring Thailand on Tuesday, the pro-democracy icon has followed a hectic schedule, shuttling between forum meetings and trips to visit Myanmar migrants.

Europe is next on the horizon, where Suu Kyi will address an International Labour Organization conference in Geneva and give a speech in Oslo to finally accept the Nobel Prize she was awarded in 1991.

She also intends to travel to Britain, where she lived for years with her family, and will address parliament in London.

Sessions at the Bangkok forum have been largely overshadowed by Suu Kyi's presence.



RAMALLAH : Palestinian security forces carry flag-draped coffins during preparations for the funeral procession of 91 Palestinians whose remains were returned by Israel in the West Bank city of Ramallah on yesterday. Israel handed over the remains of scores of Palestinian militants killed in attacks against Israel, a Palestinian official said.

AFP PHOTO

Federal appeals court downs anti-gay benefits law



joint federal tax returns, which can save money, and prevents the surviving spouse of a gay or lesbian married couple from collecting Social Security survivor benefits.

It also prevents same-sex partners of federal employees from taking advantage of medical care and other benefits available to opposite-sex partners.

The ruling does not address a key part of the law that absolves states from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states.

"To conclude, many Americans believe that marriage is the union of a man and a woman, and most Americans live in states where that is the law today. One virtue of federalism is that it permits this diversity of governance based on local choice, but this applies as well to the states that have chosen to legalize same-sex marriage," Appeals Court Judge Michael Boudin wrote in the unanimous three-judge decision.

"Under current Supreme Court authority, Congress' denial of federal benefits to same-sex couples lawfully married in Massachusetts has not been adequately supported by any permissible federal interest."

The decision comes three weeks after President Barack Obama publicly stated his support for gay marriage.

BOSTON (AFP) - US government attempts to restrict same-sex marriage took a hit Thursday when an appeals court in Boston ruled that a law denying federal benefits to gay couples is unconstitutional.

In a decision that could push the gay nuptials debate closer to a hearing at the Supreme Court, the court ruled against the Defense of Marriage Act, a 1996 law that defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

DOMA, as it's known, was adopted back when Hawaii appeared to be close to legalizing gay marriage -- something that has now been approved by eight states, with Massachusetts leading the way in 2004.

The decision affirms a lower court's ruling that the law is unconstitutional.

The ruling states that DOMA prevents same-sex married couples from filing



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Health & Living

New York mayor to ban super-size sodas

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said he plans to outlaw super-sized sugary drinks, in a ban cementing his reputation as one of America's hardest-driving policy makers on public health.

Bloomberg, who already has gone to war on smokers and transfat, will allow the sale of cups up to 16 ounces. That's half the size of the biggest, bucket-like container that patrons commonly guzzle from in cinemas, sports arenas and other outlets.

"Obesity is becoming the biggest public health issue in the country. Everybody is wringing their hands about it. We're trying to do something about it," Bloomberg said Thursday in an address by remote link to a California conference.

The New York Times first reported the ban, which could be put in place by next March.

The measure would target fast-food and other restaurants, delis, and places of public entertainment. It would not cover drinks sold in grocery stores, or any diet, fruit, dairy or alcoholic drinks.

"In restaurants and movie theaters... it's become fashionable to sell 32 ounce cups and there's probably more sugar in that than you would use in a normal month on drinking tea or coffee with sugar," Bloomberg told the All Things Digital conference in Rancho Palos Verdes.

"We're not taking your right to take away soda in supermarkets. You can still buy a 32-ounce full sugar drink, or bottle, but in restaurants they can't serve more than 16 ounces in any one cup," he added.

"You're free to say I want two 16 ounce cups, but all the studies show that if the portion put before you is bigger, you will eat dramatically more than if the portion is smaller. So we're trying to encourage people to live longer."

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Pelosi: constitutionality of health care reform 'ironclad'



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Top congressional Democrat Nancy Pelosi said Thursday she was confident that US President Barack Obama's health care reform would be upheld by the Supreme Court, saying the law's constitutionality was "ironclad."

A decision from the high court is due in June, and legal experts have been scrupulously studying just how the nine justices might rule on one of the most important cases in decades.

"Six-three," Pelosi, the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, told reporters, referring to her prediction of how the justices will

vote in favor of upholding Obama's signature legislative achievement.

"I know the Constitution," she elaborated. "The bill is ironclad. Nobody was frivolous with the Constitution and the health of the American people in writing the bill."

"That's where my confidence springs from: the merits of the bill and the nature of the Constitution," she added. "The makeup of the court? Well, we'll see."

Pelosi, a 25-year veteran of Congress, has routinely predicted a 6-3 ruling on the controversial law, which Republicans in the House and Senate hope to see struck down on the grounds that it is unconstitutional.

The comprehensive reforms provide greater medical coverage for the poorest, insurance for all Americans regardless of health condition and insurance for 32 million Americans who lack coverage.

But critics are particularly opposed to the law's linchpin requirement mandating that nearly every American be insured.

They argue that the so-called individual mandate of the law is a violation of the US Constitution's Commerce Clause, which gives Congress the power to regulate interstate trade.

Republican Mitt Romney, who will square off against Obama in November's election, has pledged to repeal the law -- which he and other Republicans have nicknamed "Obamacare" -- should he win the White House.

Dose of zinc boosts recovery chances for sick babies

PARIS (AFP) - A simple, cheap dose of zinc helps the recovery of newborns suffering from bacterial infections such as pneumonia and meningitis, according to an Indian study reported on Thursday in The Lancet.

Doctors gave 10-milligram daily supplements of zinc to 332 babies who were being given antibiotic treatment at hospitals in New Delhi, and compared the outcome against 323 infants who were given a placebo as well as antibiotics.

The three-year probe, running from 2005 to 2008, focussed on babies aged between one week and four months.

Compared to the non-zinc group, children who were given the supplements were 40-percent less likely to experience treatment failure.

This was defined as needing a second course of antibiotics within a week or intensive care, or culminating in death, the study found.

In the zinc group, 34 treatment failures occurred, compared to 55 in the placebo group.

Use of zinc also reduced the number of deaths, but not by a margin considered statistically significant.

The benefit would be highest in developing countries where several million children die from infection each year and where second-line antibiotics and intensive care may be unavailable, he said.

Zinc can be easily administered, either as a syrup or as a soluble tablet, according to the investigation.

Previous research has found that zinc supplements help cure diarrhoea and pneumonia in small children younger than five years old.

Still unclear is why zinc works. One theory is that the mineral has a moderating influence on the immune system, preventing over-inflammation that disrupts drug therapy and leads to tissue injury.

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Twitter usage soars in US: survey

(AFP) - One out of seven Americans who go online use Twitter and eight percent do it every day, a survey showed Thursday.

The survey by the Pew Research Center found the number of Twitter users has doubled in the past two years to 15 percent of online adults.

It found that those who use Twitter on a typical day has doubled since May 2011 and has quadrupled since late 2010, probably due to the growing use of smartphones.

Twitter, which allows its members to post brief comments, links or pictures, claims to have more than 140

million active users, with the largest number being in the United States.

The Pew survey found usage is driven by the 18-24 age group, 31 percent of whom use Twitter. African-Americans are also active, with 28 percent using Twitter.

Nine percent of cell phone owners in the survey said they used the device for Twitter, but the proportion in the 18-24 age group was higher at 22 percent.

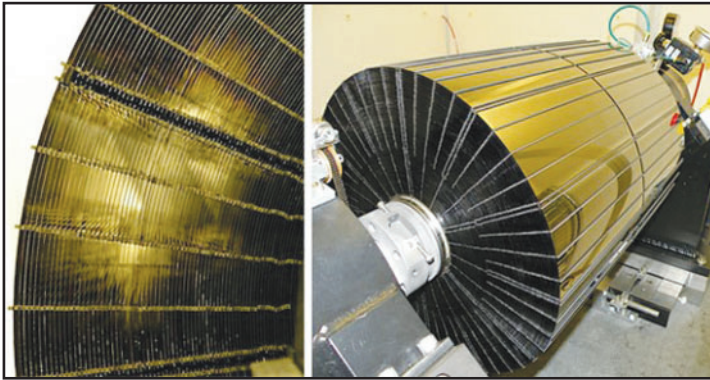
The survey found 16 percent of smartphone owners use Twitter on their phones, and 10 percent do so on a typical day.



The SpaceX capsule splashed down a few hundred miles west of Baja California, Mexico, in the Pacific Ocean Thursday after its precedent-setting stay at the International Space Station marking a successful end to the first mission by a commercial company to resupply the International Space Station. (NASA TV)

Sci-Tech

NASA readies 'black hole hunter' mission



NASA's Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array known as NuSTAR.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US space agency said it is preparing to launch next month a sophisticated orbiting telescope that will use high energy X-ray vision to hunt for black holes in the universe.

The project aims to study the "hottest, densest and most energetic phenomena in the universe, like for example black holes and the explosions of massive stars," said Fiona Harrison, principal investigator for the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array

(NuSTAR).

The launch is scheduled for June 13 from Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

"NuSTAR will open a whole new window on the universe," said Harrison, who is a professor at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

It will be the "first telescope to focus high energy X-rays. As such it will make images that are 10 times crisper and 100 times more sensitive than any telescope that has operated

in this region of the spectrum."

The observatory is designed to launch on a rocket from underneath the belly of an aircraft. Both the Pegasus XL rocket and the L-1011 Stargazer aircraft are made by Orbital Sciences Corporation.

A flight readiness review is set for June 1, and if all goes well the Stargazer will fly from Vandenberg Air Force Base in central California to Kwajalein June 5-6 for the launch about a week later.

The mission aims to work in concert with other telescopes in space, including NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, which observes lower-energy X-rays, NASA said.

NuSTAR is more potent than its predecessors because of the way it focuses high-energy X-ray light by using nested shells of mirrors to prevent the light from reflecting off.

With 133 nested mirrors in each of two optical units, the telescope also uses state-of-the-art detectors and a long mast that connects the optical units to the detectors and allows enough distance for a sharp focus.

The 33-foot (10-meter) mast will launch in a folded-up position but will extend about a week after launch, bringing it to about the length of a school bus.

"It used to be thought that black holes were rare and exotic -- that was just 20 years ago," Harrison told reporters.

"Today we know that every massive galaxy, like our Milky Way, has a massive black hole at its heart."

The new observatory aims to give a better view of the workings of a black hole, since the dust and gas that gets sucked into the gravity of a black hole becomes quite hot from speed and friction created as it circulates around the edge.

Flame virus a new age cyber spy tool

(AFP) - The Flame computer virus that smoldered undetected for years in Middle Eastern energy facilities confirmed fears that the world has entered a new age of cyber espionage and sabotage.

Internet defenders were tearing into freshly exposed Flame malware (malicious software) that could be adapted to spread to critical infrastructures in countries around the world.

While the components and tactics of Flame were considered old school, the gigantic virus's interchangeable software modules and targeted nature were evidence that malware is a potent weapon in the Internet era.

Gathering intelligence on targets and then crafting viruses to exploit specific networks as well as the habits of people using them is "certainly in vogue" and is an attack style heralded by the Stuxnet malware, McAfee Labs director of security research David Marcus.

Stuxnet, which was detected in July 2010, targeted computer control systems made by German industrial giant Siemens and commonly used to manage water supplies, oil rigs, power plants and other critical infrastructure.

"The Flame malware looks to be another phase in this war, and it's important to under-

stand that such cyber weapons can easily be used against any country," said Eugene Kaspersky, founder of Kaspersky Lab, which uncovered Flame.

Flame malware was larger than Stuxnet and protected by multiple layers of encryption.

It appears to have been "in the wild" for two years or longer and prime targets so far have been energy facilities in the Middle East.

While Stuxnet was crafted to do real-world damage to machinery, Flame was designed to suck information from computer networks and relay what it learned back to those controlling the virus.

Flame can record keystrokes, capture screen images, and eavesdrop using microphones built into computers.



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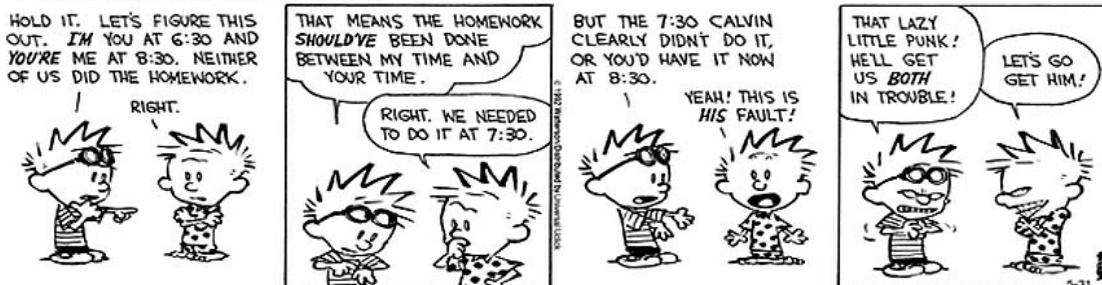
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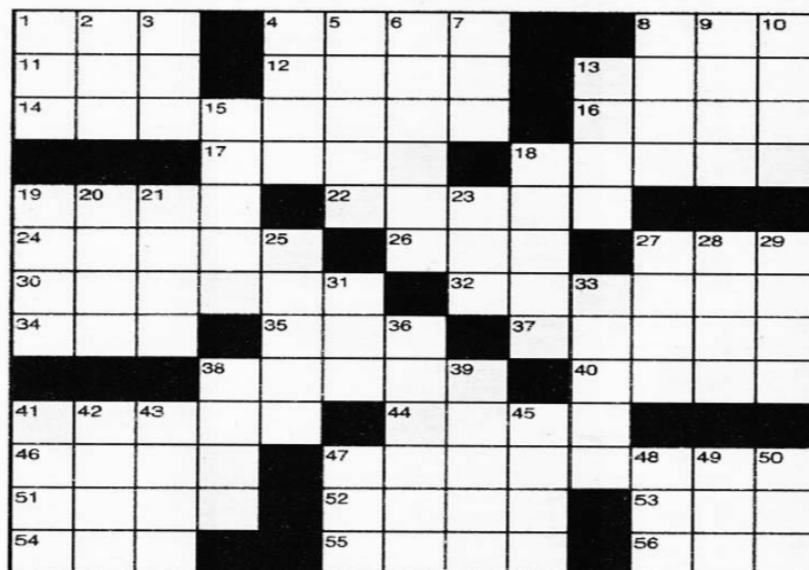
1. Baseball's Mel
4. Feds (hyph.)
8. Arnold Palmer's gp.
11. Mauna ____
12. Surfer's surface
13. Work
14. Added moisture to
16. Lingerie brand
17. Shortly
18. Sandwich shops
19. Military base
22. Runs for it
24. Stoplight's red preceder
26. Hankering
27. Capp and Capone
30. Prepare (2 wds.)
32. Abduct
34. Pennsylvania has three
35. Director Burton
37. Unimportant
38. Costing little
40. Pink
41. Footgear
44. Wild disorder
46. Eve's son
47. Earth's galaxy (2 wds.)
51. Mother's sister
52. ____ about (approximately, 2 wds.)

53. Large primate
54. Celebrated '60s leader (abbr.)
55. Animal rights gp.
56. Mrs. (Sp.)

DOWN

1. ____ Faithful
2. One ____ customer (2 wds.)
3. Scottish topper
4. Dancer Verdon
5. ____ the world (2 wds.)
6. In a balanced
7. Actor Beatty
8. Opinion ____
9. 1958 Leslie Caron movie
10. Cry of regret
13. Loafer tips
15. Document
18. Casual Friday material
19. Animal enclosure
20. Hymn's end
21. Wharton grads
23. Mouse-spotter's cry
25. Westheimer et al.
27. ____ Domini

28. Asian country
29. Peppy
31. Bakery item
33. "____ Harry"
36. Of the sea
38. Loafer coin
39. Plane operator
41. Con man's plan
42. U-____
43. Porcine sound
45. Gumbo ingredient
47. Broom's wet kin
48. Existed
49. Spring mo.
50. Pro vote

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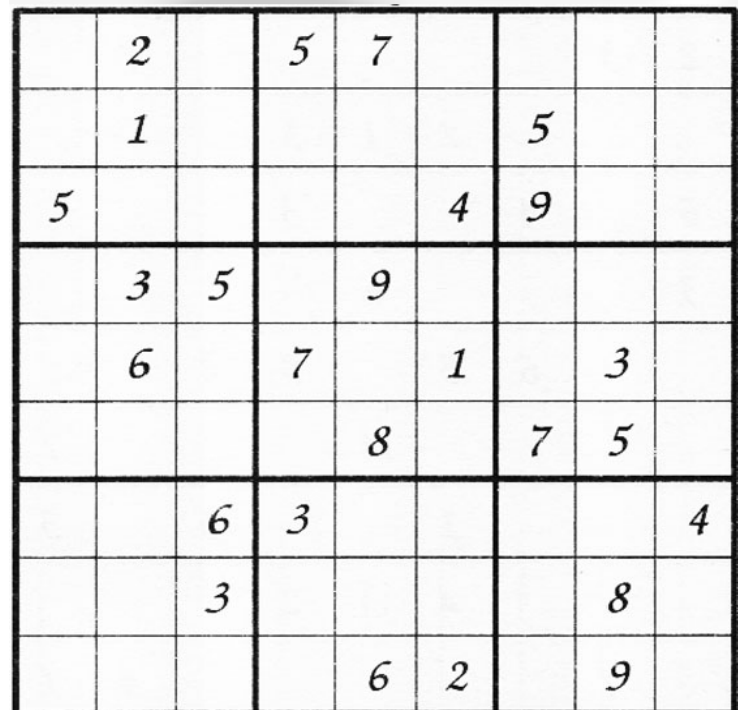
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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1	8	9	4	7	6	5	3	2
4	2	3	5	1	9	8	6	7
9	5	1	8	3	2	1	6	7
6	8	7	1	5	2	3	9	4
8	2	1	9	6	7	5	4	3
2	9	6	7	5	1	8	3	4
4	7	5	8	2	9	6	1	3
3	1	8	6	4	3	7	2	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Dollar firms as investors flee distressed euro

NEW YORK (AFP) - The dollar rose against the euro Thursday as investors sought safety from fears that debt-riddled Greece may leave the eurozone and Spain's banking troubles may require an international rescue.

The euro hit a fresh 23-month low at \$1.2337, before recovering slightly around 2100 GMT to trade at \$1.2361, down from \$1.2366 at the same time Wednesday.

"Hopes that Spain will manage without a bailout (are) all but fizzling out," said analyst Brenda Kelly at CMC Markets.

The European currency plummeted against Japan's yen, to 96.82 from 97.76 the prior day. Earlier it sank to 96.51 yen, its lowest level since December 2000.

The dollar also weakened against the yen, to 78.33 yen compared with 79.06 yen late Wednesday.

Kathy Lien at GFT said

the euro was one of May's worst-performing currencies, having shed nearly 7.0 percent of its value against the greenback and more than 9.0 percent against the yen.

"Concerns about Greece's adherence to austerity measures, their plans to keep the euro and the sustainability of Spanish finances all contributed to the slide in the euro," Lien said.

The dollar rose Thursday against the Swiss currency, to 0.9714 francs from 0.9711 francs, and against the British pound, which fell to \$1.5406 from \$1.5481.

Traders were on tenterhooks ahead of the US government's May jobs report due Friday.

Analysts expected 150,000 jobs were added, better than April's meager 115,000 jobs, but still just barely keeping up with the population growth in the labor force.

China and Japan to begin direct currency trading

Shanghai (AFP) - China and Japan will start direct currency trading on Friday as Beijing marks another stage on its journey to internationalise the yuan.

Forex traders will be able to swap Japanese yen for the Chinese unit without having to use the US dollar as an intermediary currency when markets open in Tokyo and Shanghai at 0000 GMT.

The yuan-yen trade -- part of a wider deal reached last year between Beijing and Tokyo to forge closer ties -- will be allowed to move in a wider range than the narrow band at which the dollar and yuan change hands.

China will set a daily rate

based on dealer quotes, with trade allowed to move within a 3.0 percent band above or below that rate, compared with a 1.0 percent band fixed to the yuan-dollar.

The trading-band rule applies only in Shanghai while free exchanges are guaranteed in Tokyo.

Rates in the two markets could be different briefly but are likely to converge very quickly, traders said.

India govt bans 5-star hotels in austerity drive

New Delhi (AFP) - India ordered an immediate austerity drive Thursday banning government meetings in five-star hotels, curbing foreign travel and halting the creation of new posts to help rein in a bulging deficit.

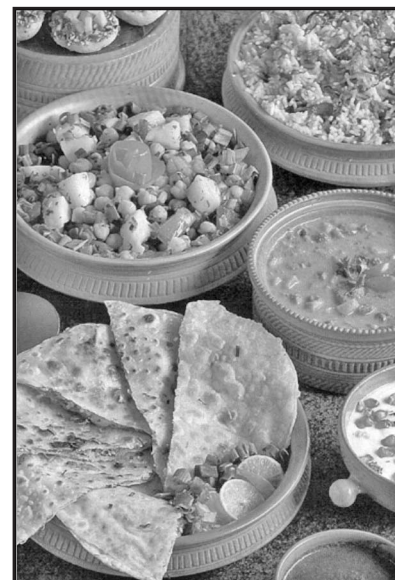
There will also be a ban on buying new vehicles, the finance ministry said in an official directive to all ministries, issued hours after figures showing that India had posted its worst economic growth performance in nine years.

A range of measures on "fiscal prudence and economy" have come into force with immediate effect, the ministry said, but analysts cautioned that far more effort was needed to put India's finances on a sound footing.

Economic growth slowed to 6.5 percent in the 2011-12 financial year, according to the data, which pushed India's currency to a new lifetime low of 56.50 rupees to the dollar.

The government has ascribed many of India's economic woes to the crisis in the eurozone, which has hit exports and prompted foreign investors to pile out of India into the perceived safe haven of US assets.

But the government has also come under attack for its economic management with business confidence hit by the sluggish growth, controversial tax rulings, economic reform paralysis and worries over rising welfare subsidies.



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Richest will get richer in coming years: experts' report



And the super-rich would continue to lead the pack, it added.

"Globally, the UHNW household segment will continue to grow the fastest over the next five years, with a projected CAGR of eight percent.

The elite UHNW's share of wealth was also set to grow, the report added.

The super-rich held \$7.1 trillion -- or 5.8 percent of global private wealth -- in 2011.

Predicting eight-percent growth over five years for the richest of the rich, the report said this group would by the end of 2016 hold \$10.3 trillion -- 6.8 percent of global wealth.

The growth in private wealth showed wide regional variations, with North America seeing a 0.9 percent decline in 2011 to \$38 trillion, though expected market improvements would likely reverse the drop.

By contrast, private wealth in the Asia-Pacific region -- excluding Japan -- increased by 10.7 percent in 2011 to \$23.7 trillion.

Wealth in the region is expected to continue growing at a double-digit rate and reach \$40.1 trillion by the end of 2016, when it would have crept past Western and Eastern Europe combined, the report said.

In Eastern Europe, Russian growth was the main driving force behind the 2011 increase in the region's wealth, which rose 14.4 percent to \$1.9 trillion.

Growth in the region was expected to outstrip growth in Western Europe by around 8.7 percent over the next five years to reach \$2.9 trillion by the end of 2016, the report said.

ZURICH (AFP) - The world's richest people got even wealthier last year despite the global economic crisis, thanks to the growth of emerging economies in Asia and eastern Europe, according to a new report Thursday.

And the elite "ultra-high-net-worth" (UHNW) club is set to get richer still over next five years, the report predicted.

"Overall, global growth in private wealth is clearly being driven by rapidly developing economies in the 'new world', not by the 'old world'," the report by the Boston Consulting Group said.

Worldwide, private financial wealth grew 1.9 percent to \$122.8 trillion (98.7 trillion euros). The increase was considerably weaker than the 6.8-percent rise recorded in 2010 the 9.6-percent gain in 2009.

The highest growth was recorded among the richest of the rich: wealth held by those in the exclusive UHNW club rose by 3.6 percent last year, the report found.

The consulting group predicted private wealth would continue to grow, with a compound annual growth (CAGR) of between four and five percent over the next five years to reach more than \$150 trillion by the end of 2016.



Current as of:	Currency	Buying	Buying	Selling
05/31/2012	Code	rate	Cheques	Rate
		banknotes		
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.710	1.730	1.760
Britain	GBP	2.710	2.760	2.830
Switzerland	CHF	1.8426	1.8498	1.8697
Netherlands	EUR	2.2195	2.2153	2.2528
Sweden	SEK	0.2374	0.2446	0.2534
Denmark	DKK	0.2884	0.2956	0.3057
Norway	NOK	0.2851	0.2923	0.3021
Japan	JPY	223.14	225.17	226.10
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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





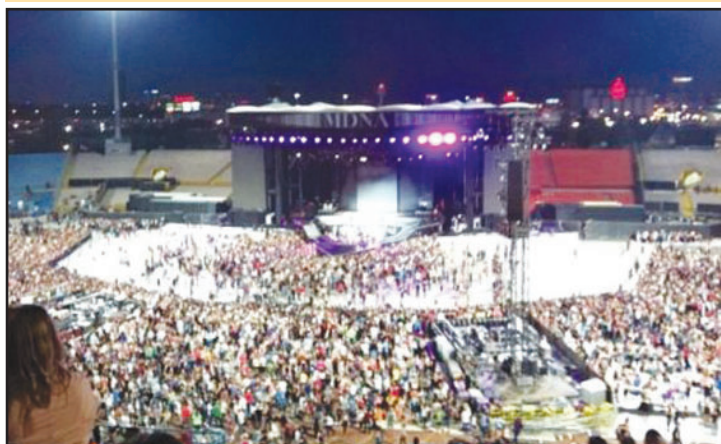
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Tel Aviv buzzing as Madonna kicks off MDNA world tour



TEL AVIV (AFP) - Pop icon Madonna kicked off her 2012 world tour on Thursday with a call for peace from a Tel Aviv stage. Her much anticipated world tour spanning 30 countries and 86 concert dates to promote her new MDNA album.

Excited fans were already pouring through the gates when they opened some four hours earlier, with all 32,000 tickets sold out.

What promised to be an eye-popping extravaganza marked the start of the 53-year-old Queen of Pop's ninth world tour and her first since her "Sticky and Sweet" outing in 2008/2009.

From Israel, she is to move on to Abu Dhabi and then to Europe and the Americas before ending in early 2013 in Australia, where she has not performed in more than 20 years.

Kicking off her latest tour in Israel was a natural choice for the Catholic-born singer, who over the past decade has become deeply involved in the Jewish mystical tradition of Kabbalah.

The set will include 20 songs, most of them from her new album, but with a showing for some of her best-known hits from the 80s including "Like a Virgin", "Material Girl" and "Papa Don't Preach."

There was speculation she

might perform a mashup of "Express Yourself" with Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" which was released last year, sparking criticism it was uncannily similar to Madonna's 1989 hit.

Earlier this week, a video of Madonna rehearsing popped up on YouTube showing what appeared to be Madonna singing her own song, then cutting into the Lady Gaga version during the chorus.

Officials said her two older children -- 15-year-old Lourdes, and 12-year-old Rocco -- would also take part in the

Grammy Awards set for Feb 10 in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The 55th Grammy Awards, the music industry's annual megabash, will take place on February 10, 2013 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, organizers announced Thursday.

The nominations will be unveiled on December 5 at a concert broadcast on US network CBS, which also carries the Grammys telecast. Albums, songs and videos released between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012 are eligible.

The 54th Grammy Awards, which took place on February 12, were clouded by the death the night before of pop super-

show.

"This show is epic and bigger than anything she's done before. There are many more costume changes. We're taking 700 shoes on the road," her costume designer and stylist Arianne Phillips told the WWD website.

"Madonna changes outfits seven or eight times and the dancers change 10 to 15 times, depending on the dancer," she said.

Since she arrived in Israel late on Friday on an El Al flight from New York, Madonna has reportedly spent much of time rehearsing, praying or attending Kabbalah events.

Ahead of her arrival, the Material Girl asked for the stadium to include sleeping accommodation for her and her family, a games area for her kids and a lounge in which she will be interviewed by US TV host Conan O'Brien, who has flown in specially, Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported.

The Tel Aviv show is reported to have cost \$3.9 million (3.1 million euros).

star Whitney Houston at her Beverly Hills hotel.

British soul diva Adele made a triumphant return to the stage after throat surgery and won a clean sweep of six awards for her breakthrough "21," named best album of the year.

The awards show is one of the most popular in the United States in terms of viewership. Last year, the event saw its second-highest audience ratings ever, with 39.9 million people tuning in.

Two weeks later, 39.3 million viewers watched the Oscars.

Lady Gaga hits record 25 million Twitter followers



(AFP) - Pop diva Lady Gaga set a social media record Thursday when she became the first person on Twitter to amass more than 25 million followers, more than anyone else on the micro-blogging website.

"#25milliontweetymonsters wow! I'm officially feeling like the luckiest girl in the world today. Last sold out show in Singapore in 2 hrs!" she tweeted from Southeast Asia, where she has been on tour.

Seven of the nine most-followed people on Twitter are pop singers: Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber (in second place with nearly 22.9 million followers), Katy Perry, Rihanna, Britney Spears, Shakira and Taylor Swift.

The outliers are US Presi-

dent Barack Obama, in seventh place with 17 million followers, and reality TV star Kim Kardashian, who is eighth with 14.8 million, according to twittercounter.com.

Lady Gaga previously made Twitter history as the first to surpass the 10, 15 and 20 million follower milestones.

News of her latest breakthrough came on the heels of her decision to cancel the Indonesian leg of her "Born This Way" tour in the face of threats from Muslim hardliners.

She used Twitter to apologize to fans, saying: "We had to cancel the concert in Indonesia. I'm so very sorry to the fans & just as devastated as you if not more. You are everything to me."

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



Gouda Burger 2

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Euro 2012 UEFA European Championship

European and world champions Spain will defend their continental title in Poland and Ukraine

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

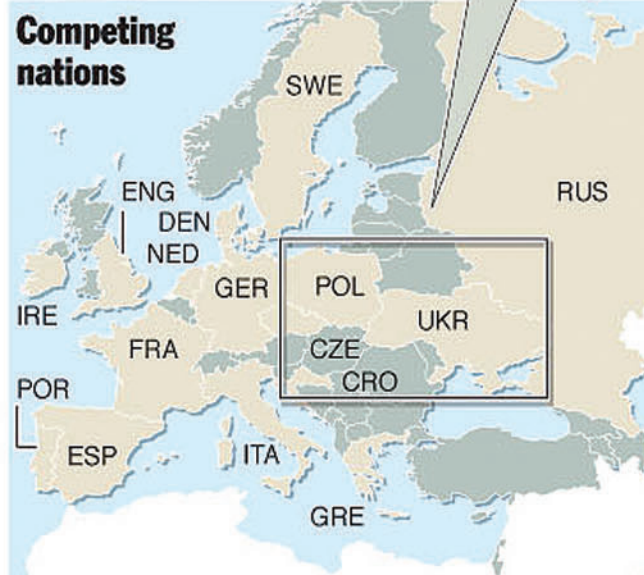
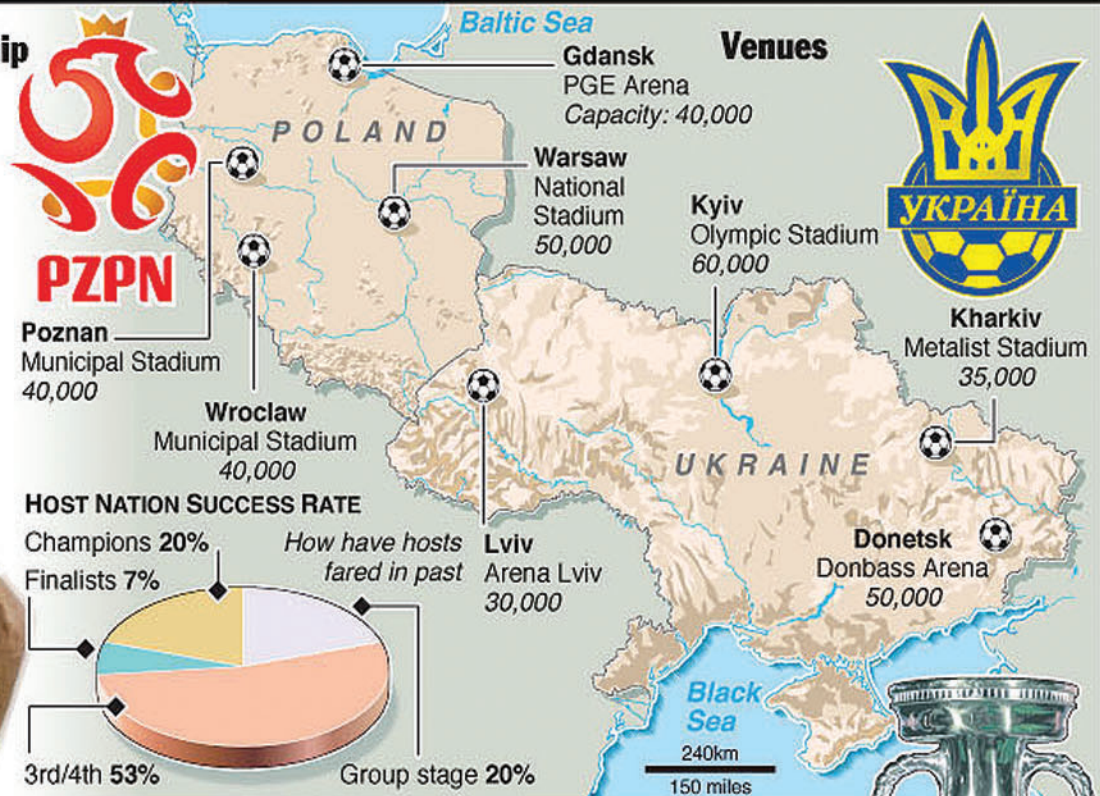
2008 Xavi Hernandez ESP
2004 Theo Zagorakis GRE
2000 Zinedine Zidane FRA
1996 Matthias Sammer GER

Xavi Hernandez – heart of Spain's midfield, five-times nominated for FIFA World Player of the Year



Spain are second team to hold both European and World titles after France in 1998/2000

Tango 12 – new generation of adidas' official matchball



Henri Delaunay trophy named after the tournament's originator. Height 60 cm, weight 8kg

Group stage schedule

All matches at 12 noon and 2:45 pm (Aruba Local time) except last day group matches when all kick off at 2:45 p.m.

A				B				C				D			
June				June				June				June			
8	Poland	Greece	Warsaw	9	Netherlands	Denmark	Kharkiv	10	Spain	Italy	Gdansk	11	France	England	Donetsk
	Russia	Czech Rep	Wroclaw		Germany	Portugal	Lviv		Ireland	Croatia	Poznan		Ukraine	Sweden	Kyiv
12	Greece	Czech Rep	Wroclaw	13	Denmark	Portugal	Lviv	14	Italy	Croatia	Poznan	15	Ukraine	France	Donetsk
	Poland	Russia	Warsaw		Netherlands	Germany	Kharkiv		Spain	Ireland	Gdansk		Sweden	England	Kyiv
16	Greece	Russia	Warsaw	17	Portugal	Netherlands	Kharkiv	18	Croatia	Spain	Gdansk	19	Sweden	France	Kyiv
	Czech Rep	Poland	Wroclaw		Denmark	Germany	Lviv		Italy	Ireland	Poznan		England	Ukraine	Donetsk

Quarter-finals

June 21, 20:45 Warsaw

A1
B2

Semi-final

June 27, 20:45 Donetsk

June 23, 20:45 Donetsk

C1
D2

Top two teams in each group progress to knock-out stage

If scores level after 90 minutes, knock-out stage matches go into extra-time.
Matches remaining level decided on penalties

Final

July 1, 20:45 Olympic Stadium Kyiv

Semi-final

June 28, 20:45 Warsaw

Quarter-finals

June 22, 20:45 Gdansk

B1
A2

June 24, 20:45 Kyiv

D1
C2

Final results

Year	Host nation	Winner	Score	Runner-up
1960	USSR	France	2-1	Yugoslavia
1964	Spain	Spain	2-1	USSR
1968	Italy	Italy	1-1 (2-0 replay)	Yugoslavia
1972	W. Germany	Germany	3-0	USSR

Source: UEFA Original pictures: Getty Images

Roll call of champions

Year	Host nation	Winner	Score	Runner-up
1976	Czechoslovakia	W. Germany	2-2 (5-3 pens)	Yugoslavia
1980	W. Germany	Italy	2-1	Belgium
1984	France	France	2-0	Spain
1988	Netherlands	Germany	2-0	USSR
1992	Denmark	Sweden	2-0	Germany

Year	Host nation	Winner	Score	Runner-up
1996	Germany	England	2-1	Czech Republic
2000	France	Netherlands/Belgium	2-1	Italy
2004	Greece	Portugal	1-0	Portugal
2008	Spain	Austria/Switz.	1-0	Germany

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EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE

June 8 - July 1



Evergreen Klose closes in on German record



Miroslav Klose of Germany is challenged by Ayhan Akman of Turkey during the UEFA EURO 2008 Semi Final match

MUNICH (AFP) - Poland-born Germany striker Miroslav Klose will be looking to roll back the years at Euro 2012, as the evergreen veteran aims to claim his first major title.

Klose turns 34 on June 9 when Germany open their Group B campaign against Portugal in Lviv and German fans will be hoping to see him perform a few more of his famous front-flip goal celebra-

tions during the month-long tournament.

With 63 goals in 114 appearances for his country,

Klose is just five short of Gerd Mueller's all-time record of 68 goals for Germany, the last of which sealed a 2-1 win over Holland in the 1974 World Cup final.

Lazio's Klose has repeatedly said his main motivation this June is to see Germany realise their potential, rather than passing Mueller's mark, by winning the Euro 2012 final in Kiev on July 1.

"Without a doubt, this team has the quality to go far," he insisted with the authority of a seasoned professional preparing for his sixth major tournament.

He is the only player to score five goals or more in consecutive World Cups (in 2002 and 2006) and with 14 World Cup goals, he is second only to Brazil's Ronaldo, who with 15 is the competition's all-time top scorer.

Having made his debut in 2001, Klose has yet to lift a

major title, despite playing in the 2002 World Cup final, the Euro 2008 final and also twice reaching World Cup semi-finals in 2006 and 2010.

A hard-working striker who can thanklessly harass goalkeepers and defenders for 90 minutes before popping up in the right place to score the winner, he was top-scorer in Germany's flawless qualifying campaign with nine goals.

Klose's experience and work ethic has made him first-choice for Germany coach Joachim Loew and only 1990 World Cup winner Lothar Matthaeus, with 150 appearances, has played more games for Germany.

Since taking charge in 2006, Loew has always relied on Klose, especially four years ago at the last European Championships and the 2010 South African World Cup, when Bayern Munich striker Mario Gomez struggled for

form.

At Euro 2012, Klose could find himself playing in front of Germany's rising star midfielders 19-year-old Mario Goetze and 22-year-old Marco Reus but the ex-Bremen and Bayern player says he enjoys being a role model.

"It is important to me that I demonstrate how a professional footballer should conduct themselves," said Klose.

Klose shuns the limelight and his dedication to fitness has kept him in shape, but he admits time is starting to catch up with him.

"The physical recovery from stress takes longer at my age: three games a week, I could manage fairly easily at 23 -- these days that is quite taxing physically for me," he said.

One thing has remained constant since he started his career in 1998 -- his pre-match ritual.

"It calms me down. I'm superstitious, for example, I always pull on my right boot first and always run onto the pitch from the right," he said.

Having been born in the south Poland city of Opole, Klose has always targeted a place at Euro 2012, to be co-hosted by the Ukraine and Poland, but says he will play on as long as he is selected.

No repeat of 2006 WAGS chaos



LONDON (AFP) - England coach Gary Neville has ruled out any chance of a repeat of the WAGS sideshow that overshadowed the Three Lions' campaign at the 2006 World Cup.

The wives and girlfriends (WAGS) of England's footballers became a tabloid obsession six years ago in Germany, with pages of coverage devoted to their antics in the spa town of Baden-Baden, where the squad was based.

However, Neville, a surprise choice to join Roy Hodgson's backroom staff for Euro 2012, said there is little chance of the WAGS circus rolling into England's base camp in the Polish city of Krakow.

"That won't happen again," Neville said. "The FA learned from the experience in 2006. The England team did. The England players did. That wasn't ideal for anybody."

"It was symptomatic of the times. Between 2002 and

2007, everyone got carried away with everything in life.

"It is a different world now and those mistakes won't happen again under any manager or any regime. The platform won't be given."

England went from one extreme to another at the 2010 World Cup, shuttered away at an isolated base camp in South Africa that left players complaining of boredom and isolation from the tournament.

The Football Association changed tack at Euro 2012 by choosing to base the team in the city centre of Krakow.

Neville said the location of the team's hotel would help foster a sense of normality amongst England's squad.

"You can never replicate the home environment but in terms of being free to go for a coffee or to the shops -- we should embrace it, even though it has never been done before."

No bonuses before Euro 2012 last eight for France

REIMS (AFP) - France's players will only receive bonuses at Euro 2012 if they go beyond the group phase and reach the quarter-finals, French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet announced on Thursday.

"The negotiations took place in a good climate," Le Graet said.

"We agreed that if they didn't qualify for the quarter-finals, there'd be no bonuses. With the technical objective and the objective of the federation being qualification for the quarter-finals, we've been more generous than in the past."

France's players will receive 100,000 euros (\$124,000, 80,000 pounds) if they reach the quarter-finals, with a further 50,000 euros added if they reach the semi-finals, 70,000 for reaching the final and 100,000 euros for winning the tournament.

If France win the competition, their players will therefore stand to receive overall bonuses of 320,000 euros.

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MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	29	22	.569	--
TAMPA	29	22	.569	--
YANKEES	27	23	.540	1.5
TORONTO	27	24	.529	2.0
BOSTON	26	24	.520	2.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
WASHINGTON	29	21	.580	--
MIAMI	29	22	.569	0.5
NY METS	28	23	.549	1.5
ATLANTA	28	24	.538	2.0
PHILADELPHIA	27	25	.519	3.0

Central

CHICAGO	29	22	.569	--
CLEVELAND	27	23	.540	1.5
DETROIT	23	27	.460	5.5
KANSAS	21	28	.429	7.0
MINNESOTA	18	32	.360	10.5

Central

CINCINNATI	28	22	.560	--
ST. LOUIS	27	24	.529	1.5
PITTSBURG	25	25	.500	3.0
MILWAUKEE	22	28	.440	6.0
HOUSTON	22	28	.440	6.0

West

TEXAS	31	20	.608	--
LA ANGELES	26	26	.500	5.5
SEATTLE	23	30	.434	9.0
OAKLAND	22	29	.431	9.0

West

West	W	L	Pct	GB
LA DODGERS	32	18	.640	--
SAN FRANCISCO	27	24	.529	5.5
ARIZONA	23	28	.451	9.5
COLORADO	20	29	.408	11.5
SAN DIEGO	17	35	.327	16.0

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ



ANAHEIM, California - Raul Ibanez #27 of the New York Yankees scores the go ahead run past catcher Bobby Wilson #46 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the sixth inning after tagging up on a sacrifice fly by Nick Swisher (not pictured) at Angel Stadium of Anaheim on May 30, 2012. The Yankees defeated the Angels 6-5.



Father's Day

3-Course Lunch Special

From 11:30am - 5:30pm and Sunday till 7:00pm

Appetizer: Beef & Vegetable Soup or Garden Salad

Entree: Mini Pincho Tenderloin or Grouper Fillet Meuniere

Dessert: Warm Chocolate Crepes or Ice Cream

FREE GLASS OF ASTICA TRAPICHE OR BALASHI BEER

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Argentina's most popular cut, the Skirt Steak

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Dessert

A sampler of our most popular homemade Caramel Flan, Crepes and Brownie

A glass of our famous Sangria included, prepared with fresh fruit and Carlo Rossi Burgundy Wine

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+15% service charge and tax

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NBA: Heat hold on for over-time win over Celtics



MIAMI - Dwyane Wade #3 of the Miami Heat dunks the ball against Kevin Garnett #5 and Keyon Dooling #51 of the Boston Celtics in Game Two

MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James scored 34 points and

"He was absolutely phenomenal," Celtics coach Doc

Wade added 23 as Miami withstood a stellar performance by Boston's Rajon Rondo to beat the Celtics 115-111 in over-time in game two of the NBA Eastern Conference finals.

With Wednesday's victory, the Heat took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series that will send the winners into the NBA Finals against either San Antonio or Oklahoma City.

Rondo was spectacular for the Celtics, playing all 53 minutes and scoring 44 points with 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Rivers said. "It's tough to have him play that way and not win the game. He basically did everything right."

Rondo's performance was not enough against a Heat team that also got 22 points from Mario Chalmers as they engineered the biggest playoff comeback in franchise history.

The Heat erased a 15-point second-quarter deficit, surpassing the two 14-point post-season comebacks that included the one that won game six of the 2006 NBA Finals against Dallas.

However, there were plenty of twists and turns on Miami's road back in this one.

The Heat appeared to be on their way when they put together a 12-0 scoring run late in the third quarter, taking an 81-75 lead into the final period.

They led in the fourth by as many as seven before the Celtics roared back to regain the lead.

Wade scored 21 of his 23

points after half-time. He absorbed a hard foul from Kevin Garnett in over-time, made his shot and then the free-throw for a key three-point play.

The extra period came after NBA Most Valuable Player LeBron James missed two shots in the closing seconds of regulation.

The first was a contested lay-up that he missed, but he got the rebound.

With the score tied at 99-99, James watched the clock tick

down then took a long shot at the buzzer that bounced off the rim.

Miami responded by scoring nine straight points to seize control in over-time and James finished an overall impressive night with 10 rebounds and seven assists.

Paul Pierce scored 21 points, Kevin Garnett added 18 and Ray Allen 13 for the Celtics, who will try to bounce back on Friday when they host game three of the series.

Friday:

After 6 happy hour,
\$3 wine and mix
drinks, free tapas



from 6 till 9pm

followed by
**Czar Olarte with
Los Intokables**

from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

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